I have been fortunate enough to take part in the exchange program with the Kelly School of business during fall 2011. Kelley is among the top business school in the US, it is ranked repeatedly in the “mid-teens” accordingly the legacy of the school still shines on. The school is located at the small college town named Bloomington and is the vibrating hart for more than 40,000 enrolled students. The campus is absolutely astonishing, and during the fall even more. The old buildings, some more than 150 years are located between fields of grass and a stream of water. The trees are taking their roll for the fall and shedding their leaves in an orchestra of color and shapes. These campus has inspires generations of scholars and I have no doubt it will keep on in the future.

As this is a college town housing is the most crucial part of the visit. There are many housing possibilities such as dorms in the campus (take in to account that the campus is around 8 blocks by 10 blocks, huge…) the website you should look at are http://bloomington.craigslist.org/, https://onestart.iu.edu/my2-prd/portal. One thing for sure you must sub-lease for the duration of the semester and not for the whole year. I had some foreign friends who tried to lease for the second half and they lost a lot of money. The best area to live is the downtown (Kirkwood/walnut) and hence the most expensive one. All the night/day life is located around these streets and the rest of the city is desolate! There are many houses usually with 5 roommates for around 600$ a month but the Americans are not renown for the quick social ties and there are lease in one agreement for groups of five, never the less it is worth a try. The other opportunity are the dorms. They are packed with 18-21 (age) students with apartments accommodating a range of 1-4 roommates per apartment. For me the age different was too much (30) and I would not recommend unless you have a desire for “a movie like experience”. Furthermore the true college experience are at the Fraternities and Sororities (usually 100 hormone/beer intense girls or boys live under one roof) and there is no entrance for nonmembers.

The public transportation is free and is very convenient to use around the campus. As for the housing possibilities outside of the campus area I would recommend either acquiring a car (rent/purchase) or to wear very warm clothing/shoes. Remember, the school is located at the corner of 10th St. and Fee Ave; you don’t want to be more than 1.5 mile away. As for me I have made a mistake and subleased 3 miles away from School. It was nice
as soon as I purchased a car (700$ http://bloomington.craigslist.org/). I recommend buying a car because of the American motor phenomena. They don’t use their legs (maybe for jogging…) therefor groceries are nearly impossible to purchase without a car. A second benefit is an opportunity to go on some road trips or even a nice camp at the beautiful Monroe lake (10 min driving) the gas is very cheap and as for insurance I purchased a third liability supplement at the price of 55$ a month from Geico http://www.geico.com/. The only problem is the parking around the school- there is no parking! It cost 450$ a year or 5$ an hour. My solution was to park close to a main bus station at border of the campus and take the bus (again the bus system is very efficient. 10 min will take you anywhere).

Kelley is one of the best schools in the country. Is it especially good for marketing and Supply Chain/Logistics. If you looking for Financial/accounting this is not the school for you. One of my favorite professors is Wayne Winston- Spreadsheet modeling http://kelley.iu.edu/ugrad/spotlights/spotlight_wayneWinston.cfm . He is the one who wrote the book on that subject and has corporates like Cisco and Delloite lined at door for seminars. Another professor is Richard Shockley – International Corporate Finance http://kelley.iu.edu/facultyglobal/directory/FacultyProfile.cfm?ID=8599. He is by far the best professor I ever had during my academic experience. The atmosphere in the classroom is very formal. There are no whispers in the class and if you have a question do not approach your neighbor, it is frowned about, wait for the end of the class or until the professor give you the opportunity. The academic level of the classes is high and some of the classes demand a lot of homework. You will be asked to buy text books at the begging of each semi semester. They will cost in the hundreds of dollars (even 700$) from my experience some text book are not necessary (not the class materials the big and heavy ones) for your consideration.

The overall experience in Bloomington is lovely. This is a nice town to get to know the “American way”. Indiana is not the most exciting state and the Midwest in general is not the true American representative. Americans usually travel from cost to cost and skip the Midwest and you will understand why. The university is an under graduate oriented, hence you will encounter 18-22 year old Americans. If you are young in spirit you will enjoy the experience but even if sometimes you want some more meaningful conversation than “Oh man I got so wasted last night…” I recommend thinking twice if you are more than 28 years old. I had a wonderful time and I made some lifelong friends (I hope…)GO HOSSIERS!

Talk to me regarding any question I would love to share my experience

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